

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of January 19, 2007. With this response, claims 1, 28, 34, 36 and 37 are amended and all pending claims 1-51 are presented for reconsideration and favorable action.

In the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claim 1 has been amended and it is believed that the rejection may be withdrawn.

The claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 largely based upon Eryurek '143 in view of Eryurek '567 and further in view of Sederlund '301. It is believed that the present application is patentably distinct from these references.

The invention as set forth in the pending claims is related to a retrofitting a process device to conform to a desired Safety Integrity Level (SIL). As discussed in the specification, this can be through a feature module or board for coupling to an existing sensor module. (See page 25, lines 2-5). This allows an existing process device to be upgraded as desired based upon a particular application. The cited references do not show the invention as set forth in the pending claims. Therefore, the rejections should be withdrawn.

Additionally, the dependent claims include numerous elements which are not shown in the cited references. These include, for example, monitoring data on a data bus, adding a sensor which couples to the process device, controlling loop current based upon a safety failure, the use of a watch dog circuit in a SIL configuration, monitoring errors in data stored in memory, interpolating to correct data errors, an implementation in a feature module which couples to a sensor module, and others.

As the invention set forth in the pending claims is not shown by the cited references, it is believed that the rejections may be withdrawn. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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